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CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY	Poland/East Germany	DATE DISTR.	15 August 1955
SUBJECT	Polish-East German Barge Traffic on the Lower Oder	NO. OF PAGES	2
PLACE ACQUIRED		NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)	
DATE OF INFO.		SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.	

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. The lower Oder from Fuerstenberg/Oder to Breslau (Wroclaw) had a low water level of 80 cm. during early June 1955. The water level in this part of the Oder is usually 1.30 to 1.40 meters. 25X1

2. The DSU (German Shipping Union - Deutsche Schifffahrtsunion), as of June 1955, had 50 or 60 barges engaged in the lower Oder traffic. These barges have an average maximum capacity of 470 to 480 tons but are currently carrying average loads of [redacted] tons of coal. The DSU barges travel empty to Breslau from Fuerstenberg/Oder. The Polish Oder River Shipping Company (Polska Zegluga na Odrze - PZO) has 70 to 80 barges committed to the traffic between Breslau and Berlin-Klingenberg. The Poles bring 90% of their cargo to Berlin-Klingenberg, while the DSU handles the needs of other East Germany cities. The capacity of the Polish barges equals that of the DSU barges. The round trip between Breslau and Berlin-Klingenberg takes fourteen days. It is estimated that the Poles are shipping 49,000 tons of coal to East Germany per month through the facilities of the PZO. The DSU in turn is handling approximately 36,000 tons of coal per month as a result of its barge traffic on the lower Oder. The total tonnage of coal shipped from Poland is approximately 85,000 tons per month. 25X1 25X1 25X1

3. As of May 1955, the barge traffic from Fuerstenberg/Oder to Breslau has had to pass only through the locks at Dyhernfurth (Brzeg Dolny) in Poland. These locks were put back in operation during May 1955 and operate on the counter-weight principle.

4. Polish barges have priority over East German barges at all locks in East Germany. This preferential treatment is accorded the Poles because the PZO has pressed the DSU for guarantees that Polish barges will not be in East German inland waterways for over six days on any one trip. This Polish pressure for speedy handling of Polish barges is not based solely on security reasons but on the Polish desire to obtain the maximum service out of these barges which are engaged in the lower Oder traffic.

25X1

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[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

5. As of 30 June 1955, DSU bargmen could move freely in Breslau while their barges were being loaded. The Poles on the other [redacted] only left their barges in East Germany in the company of their political officer. [redacted] Poles have been traveling in increments of five barges [redacted] Each of the increments has a political officer. The Poles receive [redacted] as per diem for their six-day stay in East Germany.

[redacted] 25X1

[redacted] 25X1

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[redacted] REPORT NO. [redacted]

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